

We claim:

1. An expression vector comprising a recombinant vaccinia virus having a mutation in the region encoding the N-terminal position of the E3L gene product and further comprising exogenous DNA operably linked to regulatory elements that control expression thereof.
2. The expression vector of claim 1 having a deletion of the region encoding amino acids 1-83 of the E3L gene product.
3. The expression vector of claim 1 having a deletion of the region encoding amino acids 1-54 of the E3L gene product.
4. The expression vector of claim 1 wherein the region encoding the N-terminal portion of the E3L gene product encodes alanine at amino acid position 44 and leucine at amino acid position 66.
5. A composition comprising the vector of claim 1 and a carrier.
6. A composition comprising the vector of claim 2 and a carrier.
7. A composition comprising the vector of claim 3 and a carrier.
8. A composition comprising the vector of claim 4 and a carrier.
9. A method of making a recombinant gene product comprising subjecting an expression vector comprising a vaccinia virus having a mutation of the region encoding the N-terminal region of the E3L gene product and wherein said vector further comprises exogenous DNA that encodes said recombinant gene product operably linked to

regulatory elements that control expression thereof, to conditions whereby said recombinant gene product is expressed.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising recovering said recombinant gene product.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said recombinant gene product is an antigen.

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